

Historic Lake House Inn closes

By Andreas Transe
Reporter Staff

Those who have made it a holiday tradition to visit the historic Lake House Inn on the shore of Lake Koshkonong in Edgerton will miss out this year; as of Nov. 1, the popular supper club and gathering place for Edgerton folk and visitors alike has been closed. Costs associated with maintaining the nearly 140 year old building get most of the blame, according to those involved in the enterprise.

In July, the Lake House Inn property was purchased from long-time owners Robert and Maryjane Axcell by LVW Properties LLC, an investment group based out of Edgerton. Not being in the bar and restaurant business themselves, LVW Properties leased space to entrepreneurs Adam Patterson and his business partner Justin Axcell, the grandson of Robert and Maryjane and a long-time member of the Lake House Inn staff.

After renovations to the bar and restaurant a grand opening was held in September. However, less than two months later, the Lake House Inn closed for business.

Patterson and Axcell's official statement about the closing was made on the Lake House Inn Facebook page.

"The owners of the Lake House Inn LLC have worked night and day for months to revive and improve the business with much success! The reputation, service, food and atmosphere are better than ever. Unfortunately with many needed repairs and high overhead we feel it is unrealistic for us to continue."

The post goes on to say that, "This has been a very difficult decision for us and we offer our sincere apologies to anyone who loved the Lake House Inn as much as we did."

Patterson related that he and Axcell had intended the business to be a successful venture.

"We made offers to purchase the property ourselves. We put money into the building and the business...we tried everything to make a go of it," according to Patterson.

The financial obstacles were exacerbated by concerns over the lease agreement, and Patterson and Axcell decided to close up shop.

LVW Properties' Leo Laughlin told a similar story.

"We bought the building to try and get it structurally sound," said Laughlin, noting that the first thing done was to fix the leaking roof. "We stepped up to try and make sure that the building itself would survive."

As is often the case with historic buildings, maintenance and renovations to code are sometimes prohibitive expenses. The upper

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two floors of the main part of the building are derelict and need a complete remodeling, and there is a lot of other work to be done, as well, revealed Laughlin.

"We (LVW Properties) are looking for an entrepreneur to bring the Lake House back to its original grandeur. That may be a B&B or some other business. We hope that someone comes along with a vision," Laughlin said.

As for now, the Lake House Inn will sit empty, save for a soon-to-be vacated residence above a ballroom. Adam Patterson and Justin Axcell are moving on, and have plans to continue in the bar and restaurant business with Vetties, LLC, in the old Wisconsin Wine and Cheese Chalet building in Newville.

The Lake House Inn has changed hands and names many

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Having recently gone out of business, The Lake House Inn sits empty this holiday season. The historic building awaits its next chapter and faces much-needed renovations and repairs.

Photo by Andreas Transe

times over the years. It has been known as "Kenny's Point," "Taylor House," "Koshkonong Hotel" and "Maple Beach Inn." This holiday

season, it will simply be known as "Closed" as it awaits the next chapter in its already storied history.